and to satisfy the travelling public, likely to be put to inconvenience by the proposed schedule.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The timings of 203204 Metre Gauge Mahalaxmi Express have been suitably adjusted to connect 311/312 Broad Gauge Express at Miraj, arriving Bombay at 8.20 A.M. and leaving Bombay at 8.25 P.M.

Request of Tamil Militants to announce ceasefire in Sri Lanka

652. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN *REDDY*:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that TLEF (Tamil Liberation Eelam Front) had requested Government to announce an indefinite ceasefire and to invite the LTTE and other political forces to the negotiation table and initiate the process for a lasting solution to end the ethnic conflict; if so, what is the response of Government to this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Government have seen the appeal by the TLEF. Government have repeatedly invited the LTTE to give up violence, lay down arms and join the democratic political process. Government have announced a unilateral ceasefire on two separate occasions. Despite all these efforts, the LTTE has not responded constructively.

Scholarships awarded by UGC

653. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Number of scholarships for post graduate research students awarded by UGC through national test;

(b) what is the percentage of scholarships given to JNU and DU;

(c) what is the break-up, university-wise, and the total number of universities in the Country; and

(d) what is the amount of scholarship and whether its utility is assessed periodically?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The UGC has instituted a Scheme for the award of Junior/Senior Research Fellowships in Science and Humanities, including Social Sciences for pursuing M. Phil/ Ph.D. programmes. The total number of fellowships under this scheme is 3595, which are allocated among different Universities. One of the conditions for the award of these fellowships is that a candidate should have qualified in the national test conducted by the UGC.

(b) and (c) The total number of fellowships is allocated among 90 universities and 10 institutions deemed to be universities. A statement showing the university-wise allocation of these awards is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 31]. The allocation to Delhi University works out to 3 27 per cent. The UGC has not made any separate allocation of fellowships from this Scheme to JNU. All the fellowships awarded by the JNU are integrated with its maintenance grants provided by the UGC. The total number of fellowships awarded by the JNU is about 370.

(d) From 1-4-1987 the value of these awards is Rs. 1800/- p.m. in the first two years and Rs. 2100/- p.m. in the subsequent two years. The scheme is intended to attract talented students to research programmes. The progress of work of individual research scholars is monitored and reviewed at different levels. The scheme itself is also reviewed by the UGC from time time.

De-recognition of Travel Agencies

654. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that travel agencies dealing in passport matters have been de-recognised on a large scale; if so,

what are the details of agencies de-recognised state-wise, the number of agencies which existed before October, 1986 and what is the present strength;

(b) what are the new criteria for recognition of travel agents and which government agency verifies the compliance of such criteria, at the State level;

(c) whether recognition is granted subject to the Regional Passport Office and whether its views are taken into consideration, if so, what is the number of cases rejected by the Ministry without receiving information from the RPO; and

(d) whether the Regional Passpor Office Ahmedabad has sent a report recommending the case of M/s Honoycomb International; if so, what are the reasons for which the applicant's firm has been de-recognised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TIWARI): (a) Passport applicants have the option to apply to Passport Offices through recognised travel agencies. Dealings of recognised travel agencies with Passport Offices are suspended or withdrawn if the agencies infringe the terms and conditions of grant of their recognition.

Before September 1986, about 900 travel agencies were dealing with the Passport Offices. At present 553 travel agencies have been granted recognition for passport work. Applications of 326 travel agencies for recognition, as per list enclosed, were not approved (*See* below).

(b) A copy of criteria in force for recognition of travel agencies is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 32]. The Ministry of External Affairs and the Passport Offices with the assistance of the Central and State Government agencies carry out the necessary verification and monitoring.

(c) Views of the concerned Passport Offices are also taken into account. But so far no application has been rejected only on basis of non-receipt of views of the Passport Officer.

(d) No, Sir. The travel agency did not meet the terms of criteria in respect of its assets and, therefore, it was not approved for recognition.

List

Number of Derecognised Agencies Passport Offices State-wise

1	Ahmedabad	29
2	Bangalore	28
3	Bhopal	3
4	Bombay	87
5	Bareilly	6
6	Calcutta	10
7	Chandigarh	19
8	Cochin	7
9	Delhi	28
10	Guwahati	1
11	Hyderabad	14
12	Jaipur	11
13	Jalandhar	18
14	Kozhikode	15
15	Lucknow	1
16	Madras	24
17	Patna	4
18	Trichy	21
	TOTAL	326